

V. REMARKS

Claims 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The claims are amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Kaiwa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,670,633). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kaiwa teaches a lighted keyboard assembly. The keyboard assembly includes a support surface, a plurality of switches disposed on the support surface in a matrix pattern, a plurality of pushbuttons, a retainer, a plurality of light sources and a plurality of square metal reflectors.

Claim 1 is directed to a key pad that includes resin key tops on a key sheet. Claim 1 recites that the resin key tops having side surfaces clearance portions configured to avoid contact with interference members with at least upper portions of which are situated in displacement regions at bottom surface edges of the resin key tops allowing their displacement when they are depressed.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach resin key tops having side surfaces clearance portions configured to avoid contact with interference members with at least upper portions of which are situated in displacement regions at bottom surface edges of the resin key tops allowing their displacement when they are depressed. By contrast, interference members 14 of Kaiwa (light source 14) do not exist in the displacement regions, i.e., operating ranges of the key tops. Thus, there is no reason to have key tops with side surface clearance portions configured to avoid contact with interference members. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

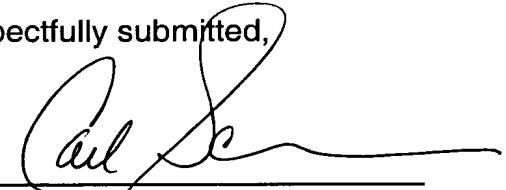
Newly added claims 17-19 also include features not shown in the applied art. Support for the newly-added claims can be found in paragraph [0013] of the specification.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



David T. Nikaido
Reg. No. 22,663

Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

Date: July 30, 2004

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

Enclosure(s): Petition for Extension of Time (two months)

DC163376